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## Citywide Garbage Plan Discussed

*Monday May 22, the City of Belvidere Committee-of-the-Whole discussed the idea of bidding out refuse collection to a citywide garbage service provider.*

By David Larson

Reminding the council about his campaign promise to bring lower garbage costs to Belvidere, Mayor Morris asked the council to consider soliciting bids for a single garbage service provider.

Currently, Belvidere residents and businesses each contract with one of three residential and two commercial scavengers for garbage removal service.

Pointing out the dramatic rise in garbage pickup costs, having doubled within the last two or three years, Morris suggested that bundling the city's volume might get a lower price. With five area providers, three residential and two commercial, he suggested the council discuss the pros and cons of one provider for the entire city.

The mayor said that he gets calls about the increased cost, and if the city's contract had specifications in the contract regarding costs, that would be the way to go. The mayor said, "I know other cities do this."

Alderman Dan Snow, (R), Ward 2, said that competition controls cost. "We are on the hook for several landfills from the past when the city did

have a single provider system, organized by the city, and that is why Belvidere is financially on the hook for environmental costs for hundreds of thousands over the years. With multiple providers, the city has no shared legal and, therefore, financial liability because it is not a part of the deal making."

Snow asked how the residents would be billed with a consolidated system.

City Attorney Mike Drella verified the liability theory that Snow spoke about. He said he has been studying how various municipalities handle refuse collection.

Alderman Marsha Freeman, (R), Ward 5, said she likes the ability to choose a provider who gives her the service she desires.

Alderman Tom Porter, (I), Ward 1, said he sides with alderman Snow, citing that the former mayor went down this path. Several residents objected to the plan, and it was killed it before it was brought

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## Police and Fire Awards Recognize the Community and Concert Goers for Heroism

By David Larson

Belvidere Police Chief Shane Woody opened the awards ceremony, which recognized those who reacted to save lives during the F1 tornado aftermath at the Apollo Theatre on March 31st, 2023, with a video from the body cam of one of the first police officers on the scene.

Chief Woody called the rescue a "collective effort" by police, fire, and citizens. "Everyone jumped in and did what needed to be done." When the bricks, rafters, and roof buried badly-injured people, those who could all responded and worked to uncover victims without concern for their own safety and welfare. Upon the arrival of the first police officers," Chief Woody said, "they found massive injuries with people walking in need of medical care and people with unknown injuries buried in the rubble. Those there and those who came risked their lives and saved lives," Woody said.

Police Chief Woody presented Valor of Service Award to the following officers for their response to the tornado on March 31, 2023: Officer Danielak, Officer McDermott, Officer Weiland, Officer Reese, Officer Ellingson, Officer Garcia, and Officer Rackley.

Fire Chief Schadle said the department had brought in an extra man, just in case, because of the weather report. He explained the roll each of the firemen played that night was scripted in advance. He explained how they followed the training they had received and the importance thereof. Off duty firefighters came to the scene and pitched in if they were in town.

Fire Chief Schadle presented Medal of Valor to Lt. Tangye, Firefighter Loudenberg, Firefighter Pavlatos, Firefighter Trujillo, and Firefighter Heiser. They were the first firefighters to arrive on the scene and entered the building not knowing if it was safe, Schadle said.

Fire Chief Schadle presented Meritorious Conduct Award given for professionalism and exemplary service for their response to Lt. Drall, Firefighter Beck, Firefighter Kriebs, Firefighter

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## Victims of 'Deepfake Porn' and 'Doxing' Could have Right to Sue

*Under pair of bills bills moving unanimously amid concerns from ACLU of Illinois*

By Nika Schoonover & Andrew Adams

Victims of "deepfake porn" and "doxing" would have a legal pathway to sue their perpetrators in Illinois under a pair of digital privacy measures that have so far received unanimous support in the General Assembly.

House Bill 2954, which would allow victims of "doxing" to pursue civil litigation, needs only a signature from the governor to become law after clearing both chambers of the General Assembly unanimously.

Doxing, as defined by HB 2954, occurs when an individual intentionally publishes another person's personal information without their consent. For an offense to qualify as doxing, the person publishing the information must have acted with intent to "harm or harass" the victim with "knowledge or reckless disregard" that it could lead to "death, bodily injury, or stalking."

Additionally, the published information must have caused the victim harm in some way, including economic injury or emotional distress. A person found by a court to have suffered from doxing would be eligible to recover damages and other relief such as attorney's fees.

"It is absolutely critical for our laws to evolve with the changing nature of the cyber world," bill sponsor Sen. Julie Morrison, D-Lake Forest, said in a news release. "This legislation provides a necessary solution to the dangerous practice of doxing, by both helping victims and deterring future bad actors."

The bill creates some exemptions for those

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## State Report: Catholic Churches Harbored Hundreds More Abusers Than Previously Disclosed

*Attorney general closes out 4.5-year investigation into abuse at hands of Catholic clerics in Illinois*

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Catholic dioceses in Illinois failed to disclose hundreds of abusive clerics before the state opened what would become a yearslong investigation into sex abuse within the church, Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced Tuesday.

Included in a scathing 700-page report published by Raoul's office at the end of the four-and-a-half-year investigation is the most comprehensive list to date of Catholic priests and religious brothers – 451 in Illinois – who abused nearly 2,000 victims since 1950.

When former Attorney General Lisa Madigan initiated the investigation on her way out of office in late 2018, only the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Joliet disclosed the names of clergy with substantiated sex abuse allegations against them. Between the two dioceses, they disclosed 103 names.

During the course of the investigation, the other four dioceses began listing their own names of known child sex abusers who ministered within their parishes, eventually upping the number of disclosed clergy with substantiated sex abuse claims against them to 320. The original 103 names disclosed by the Archdiocese of Chicago and Diocese of Joliet had some overlap with lists of names disclosed by the other four dioceses.

But Tuesday's report names 149 more abusive

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# OP-ED

## Are We Entitled to have Privacy or is Business Entitled to Have Ours

By Scott Reeder

Are you pregnant? Are you planning to get pregnant? Are you in a relationship?

I squirmed uncomfortably as my boss asked these questions to a finalist for a job opening. I'd identified the person as a promising journalist, but he wanted to do the final screening.

The questions he asked had little to do with her experience and much to do with the candidate's child-bearing plans. This incident happened more than a decade ago when I was in management for a different employer.

I would like to say that I stood up and interrupted the interrogation and said, "You can't ask those questions." But to my shame, I remained silent. I didn't want to lose my job.

Only a few months earlier, the same boss became infuriated when another woman announced her pregnancy shortly after she'd been hired.

He said he'd been "tricked" and "deceived" and that he wanted me to fire her. I wouldn't. (Interestingly enough, he could have fired her himself, but for some reason didn't.)

Instead, I spent nearly nine months being harangued daily by my supervisor about the woman's continued employment. It was a miserable experience. He was gestating a grudge.

Call me a Pollyanna, but until this experience it never occurred to me that some employers would retaliate against a worker for getting pregnant.

I grew up in a family business. When my parents learned someone was expecting, it was considered a matter to celebrate. Yes, there was the inconvenience of finding someone to fill in during a maternity leave. But it never would have crossed their minds to penalize someone.

A few days ago, I read about Becky Harmon, the coach for the WNBA team the Las Vegas Aces, being suspended for making inappropriate remarks about the pregnancy of one of her players, Dearica Hamby.

Hamby alleged the Aces "bullied, manipulated and discriminated against" her after she told the team she was pregnant.

"I was asked if I planned my pregnancy," she wrote of the Aces in her statement. "When I responded, 'no,' I was then told that I 'was not taking precautions to not get pregnant.'"

Here's a thought, it's nobody else's business whether a pregnancy is planned or not.

In fact, according to the Guttmacher Institute, 45 percent of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended.

In other words, walk into any preschool and about half of the kids you will see were an oops. Or just look in the mirror and remember your own parents were probably batting 500.

But unplanned doesn't necessarily mean unwanted or unloved.

One of the things that stands out about the Harmby story is that the abuse she allegedly endured came at the hands of another woman.

Her coach, Harmon, was a trailblazer in her own right. She was an Olympian, a professional basketball player, only the second female to be an assistant NBA coach, and she is one of the most highly regarded coaches in the WNBA.

And yet, she apparently hassled another woman for getting pregnant.

Perhaps I should find this surprising. But when

I was enduring abuse from my own boss for not firing a pregnant worker, a female editor kept chiming in, "I've seen pregnancy just ruin otherwise good reporters."

Her tone made one think she was describing a prize canine bred by the neighbors' mutt right before competing in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Every time she'd say it, I'd roll my eyes and wonder how someone could be that stupid.

Next month, a new federal law goes into effect that requires employers with more than 15 employees to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers. Such workers could not be denied employment opportunities or

retaliated against for requesting a reasonable accommodation.

My friend and Springfield native former U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos helped spearhead that measure into law.

"Like many women, I have seen the impact that it can have on a career when an employer refuses to consider accommodations for a pregnancy," she said. "Years ago, when I was still early in my career, I was up for a promotion. At the time, I had two children at home.

During my interview, I was asked if I had child care and if I planned to have more children. I replied that I had everything in my personal life in the right place.

"Despite having more experience, an excellent track record and having been with my employer longer, weeks later it was announced that I did not get the promotion. The person who did was single, with no children at home."

Bustos asked that I not identify the employer. That's understandable. No one wants to talk badly about a former employer. And that's why I, too, have held off on identifying the outfit where I had my bad experience.

But an interesting aspect of Bustos' situation was that it was a female supervisor who questioned her about whether she planned another pregnancy. In my case, the pressure to fire a pregnant worker came from a man.

Discrimination can come from all quarters. And that is why I'm glad we will soon have a law protecting all pregnant workers.

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at [sreeder@illinoistimes.com](mailto:sreeder@illinoistimes.com).

### OBITUARIES

Joyce Brown, 87, Belvidere, May 12

Robert Foster, 90, Poplar Grove, May 14

Brad Larson, 67, Belvidere, May 15

Judith Lykowski, 83, Belvidere, May 17

Judith Racz, 78, Belvidere, May 14

Tina Turner, 83, Künsnacht, Switzerland, May 24

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## Garbage

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to a vote. Additionally, Porter had concerns that if the city got into this, that calls about service would have to be a function of the city. He was also concerned that costs might escalate once a single vendor was in place. His recommendation was to put it to a referendum.

Alderman Freeman stated that the city contracts with an electrical supplier, but the plan is optional. The mayor responded that the current electrical aggregation agreement doesn't directly discount electricity. The price is tied to the current ComEd price, and the city gets a \$100,000 a year rebate. It was a discounted at one time. With a garbage contract, there would be no opt in or out. The rationale is that with volume buying power, you potentially have lower prices.

Alderman Matt Flury, (R), Ward 4, was concerned about liability, but wanted to get the quotes and then weigh if the savings would be adequate to even discuss it.

Freeman said that a single company system would not allow switching to a different company if someone didn't like the service they were getting. The mayor responded that this is not rocket science, and that the level of service could be built into a contract.

Alderwoman Wendy Frank, (R), Ward 3, said problems could come up, but felt that quotes should be solicited.

A motion was made by Alderman Porter to go forward to get bids, which passed.

## Awards

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Ellwanger, Firefighter Heiser, and Firefighter Thornton.

Fire Chief Schadle presented Life Saving Awards to Mercy MD1 Matthew Smetana, a doctor at Mercy Hospital who came to the Apollo. He treated and directed the transporting and hospitalization of the victims from the tornado site. Doctor Smetana was assisted by Lifeline Elite Paramedic Lauren Schultz, who has since transferred to the new Belvidere ambulance service now serving Belvidere. At the time, OSF Lifeline was Belvidere's ambulance provider until the change on April 30, 2023. The doctor established Belvidere Fire Station #1 as an on-site treatment center, saving the lives and improving the outcomes of many of the most injured that evening. Many could walk despite their injuries, but some were carried by firefighters across the bridge to Fire Station #1.

## Lawmakers Advance Bills Mandating Salary Transparency, Community College Credit Parity

One week remains in General Assembly's spring legislative session

By Andrew Adams & Hannah Meisel

As the General Assembly prepares to wrap up its spring legislative session this week, Democratic lawmakers are advancing a bill that would mandate job postings to include a salary range in a move they say would promote equity within the workplace.

Meanwhile, a bipartisan bill designed to make transferring to a public university in Illinois from a community college an easier and more cost-effective path will soon be sent to Gov. JB Pritzker for his signature.

### Salary transparency

Democrats in the Illinois Senate last week approved a measure that would require employers to list a pay scale and expected benefits for any position listed on a job posting. It would also create a regulatory structure for the Department of Labor to investigate violations of the proposed law.

"We know that more and more employers have begun to include these pay ranges in their job postings as it becomes starkly clear that doing so is crucial to attracting talent," bill sponsor Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, D-Chicago, said in debate last week.

Pacione-Zayas said the bill would prompt employers to interrogate potential "unjustified disparities" between employees' pay based on things like race, ethnicity, gender or language.

House Bill 3129 passed with a 35-19 vote. It went back to the House, which passed it 75-39 on Wednesday, clearing the way for it to head to the governor.

The bill would require expected pay disclosures from employers with 15 or more employees in the state and would apply to things such as job board listings, newspaper ads and postings made by a third-party on behalf of an employer.

Sen. Win Stoller, R-East Peoria, called the proposal "divorced from reality," noting the bill does not account for the unpredictable hiring process.

"As a small business owner myself, we've had situations where we find the right person and we'll

restructure a department," Stoller said. "We'll rearrange some roles to take into full account, to take full advantage of their skills and abilities."

Business groups opposed the bill when it was introduced, although that opposition has lessened. While amendments have brought powerful groups like the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce to neutral positions on the bill, the National Federation of Independent Businesses and the Technology Manufacturers Association opposed the bill in a House committee Tuesday morning.

If the bill becomes law, Illinois would join a growing number of states considering ways to make compensation more transparent in the job application process. New York passed a law last year that requires all job postings include a minimum and maximum salary or wage. Colorado passed a similar law that requires disclosing pay range and a general description of benefits in 2019. Some states, such as California, Nevada, Maryland and Rhode Island, require employers to disclose pay ranges to job applicants on request.

The salary transparency bill follows similar efforts in recent years aimed at making hiring practices more equitable, including a 2019 law that made it illegal for employers to ask about an applicant's salary history as part of the interview process.

### Community college credit parity

Under a bill soon to be sent to Pritzker's desk, community college students in Illinois would be assured that class credits related to their chosen major in certain fields of study will be transferable to all public colleges and universities in the state.

Senate Bill 2288 passed the House on a unanimous vote last week after receiving the same chamber-wide support in the Senate in March.

Under current state law, four-year colleges and universities in Illinois can decide whether to accept community college course credits as direct equivalents to required classes in a transfer student's declared major. If the university deems the community college class as not equivalent to the one it offers, the credits earned would only count toward a student's elective hour requirements, and he or she would have to retake a similar class at the university.

Illinois Community College Board Director Brian Durham praised the bill's House passage in a statement Monday.

"Equalizing the value for certain credits earned at community colleges will also help reduce the stigma that work done at a community college is less valuable than at a four-year college or university," he said.

Under the Illinois Articulation Initiative – a partnership between the Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education – there are currently 18 majors in which courses taken at a community college may be counted as equivalent classes at a state university.

SB 2288 would grant course parity under all 18 of those majors, which are in areas from computer science to theatre arts. But the bill would also require the IAI to develop an

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publishing others' private information, including if the information was shared to report criminal activity or if it was shared to the news media and was constitutionally protected.

The measure would also allow a court to grant temporary restraining orders and injunctions ordering the defendant to cease publication of the identifying information while the case is pending.

The ACLU of Illinois opposed the bill, saying they're concerned about the overbroad definitions of "publish" and "personally identifiable information."

The measure defines "publish" as making information available to another person.

"Personally identifiable information" is defined as any identifying information combined with other information such as the person's social security number, social media accounts, education and employment information, information about gender identity or sexual orientation, or information about how to enter a person's teleconference meeting.

Angela Inzano, policy and advocacy strategist for ACLU Illinois, said the organization is concerned the definitions would allow individuals to file suit even if the information is shared privately or already publicly available.

"They did narrow the definition of 'publish' to make it clear that it did not apply to two people texting back and forth," Inzano said in an interview. "That was useful, but we feel like it's still not far enough."

**'Deepfake porn'**

House Bill 2123, a measure allowing victims of so-called "deepfake porn" – or digitally altered, nonconsensual sexual images – to sue the creator of those images passed the Senate unanimously last week and cleared the House unanimously Wednesday.

The bill would give victims of deepfake porn the same legal footing as victims who have had their actual sexual images shared without their consent. It does so by amending a 2019 law which created a pathway to civil action for people who have suffered harm from the unwanted distribution of their sexual images. These images are sometimes called "revenge porn," so-called to describe a situation in which someone who obtained sexual images consensually later shares them to harm the subject.

HB 2123 would add "intentionally digitally altered" sexual images to the existing law. It also expands the remedies in the existing law to allow a court to grant the victim temporary restraining orders and injunctions ordering the defendant to cease publication of the images in question.

A previous version of the bill passed unanimously in the House in March. Because it was amended in the Senate, it now awaits further consideration in the House.

Sen. Mary Edly-Allen, D-Libertyville, sponsored the bill and said that the deepfake porn is part of a long history of gender-based harassment.

"This is a way to silence women," Edly-Allen said of deepfakes.

Republicans voiced support for the bill and its previous versions in both chambers of the Statehouse.

"We have to ensure that people's privacy rights are protected and this bill helps to do that," Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield, said during debate.

Edly-Allen said in an interview that the bill is a first step in a broader conversation about the impact of evolving technologies like artificial

intelligence. She said she hopes to work with others in the legislature to hold a hearing on the subject later this year.

"It can't just be legislation," Edly-Allen said in an interview. "We also need literacy in schools. How do you tell what's true and not true?"

The ACLU of Illinois also opposed the deepfake porn bill. When the measure was introduced, it would have allowed the subjects of any digital forgery to sue the forgeries' creators if they intended to cause harm, incite violence or acted with reckless disregard toward the subject. Amendments to the bill have since narrowed its scope to include only sexually explicit images and videos.

"The bill has been markedly improved since it was introduced, but we still have some concerns," ACLU spokesman Ed Yohnka told Capitol News Illinois. Yohnka said one potential free speech concern stems from the proposal's provision allowing temporary restraining orders prior to adjudication.

**Generative AI**

The Senate last week also passed House Bill 3563, which would create a task force to investigate natural language processing and generative artificial intelligence. These technologies have drawn significant attention in recent months thanks to services like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard.

The task force would be managed by the state's Department of Innovation and Technology and would include representatives from the agency, the legislative caucuses, the state board of education, business associations, labor associations and the attorney general's office, among others.

"It is a broad, broad task force because it is a broad, broad issue," bill sponsor Sen. Robert Peters, D-Chicago, said.

The measure passed both chambers unanimously and will head to the governor.

Editor's note: This story has been updated to reflect the most recent action on all of the bills. They have all cleared both chambers of the General Assembly.

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clergy members than the dioceses had ever disclosed.

"Decades of Catholic leadership, decisions and policies have allowed known child sex abusers to hide, often in plain sight," Raoul said at a news conference in Chicago. "And because the statute of limitations has frequently expired, many survivors of child sex abuse at the hands of Catholic clerics will never see justice in a legal sense. But it is my sincere hope that this report will shine a light on those who violated their positions of power and trust to abuse innocent children, and on the men in church leadership who covered up that abuse."

A 2017 law eliminated Illinois' prior statute of limitations for child sex abuse, under which a 20-year clock began ticking on a victim's 18th birthday. But that law was only prospective; a 2009 Illinois Supreme Court decision affirmed

that attempts to alter the statute of limitations retroactively violated the due process rights of the accused.

Asked Tuesday if he would support an amendment to the state's constitution to allow older victims to file lawsuits, Raoul declined to give an answer.

"I'm not going to speak to that," he said.

Raoul and Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General Thomas Verticchio on Tuesday said investigators referred certain cases to local law enforcement any time they had reason to believe the statute of limitations window may have still been open. But they couldn't say how many cases were actionable.

However, they did say the most recent abuse detailed during the investigation occurred in approximately 2010.

The investigation spans more than seven decades, with some of the oldest priests named in the report having been ordained in the 1910s. Raoul on Tuesday confirmed that the majority of those named in the report – 330 – were already dead.

"These perpetrators may never be held accountable in a court of law, but by naming them in this report, the intention is to provide public accountability and a measure of healing to survivors who have long suffered in silence," Raoul said.

The attorney general's office made "more than 600 confidential contacts" with survivors of child sex abuse by church leaders, including in-person, video and phone interviews, in addition to messages left on the attorney general's hotline, plus emails and letters.

The dioceses cooperated in the investigation, giving staff in the attorney general's office access to thousands of files and allowing diocese leadership to sit for interviews with investigators.

"It's important to note, when we say substantiated, we were not calling balls and strikes," Raoul said "The Church is, in the end, substantiating."

According to the report, 22 clergy members associated with dioceses in Illinois had preyed on five or more children. Nine of those had at least 10 victims over the course of their careers, and one former priest – Joseph Fitzharris of Chicago – had at least 20 victims dating back to his first assignment in Puerto Rico in the late 1960s.

Fitzharris spent 17 years associated with eight churches in the Chicago area before moving on to Missouri, Indiana, California and Colorado, where he continued abusing children until the mid-1980s, according to the report. He was convicted of sexual abuse of a minor in Illinois in 1987, removed from public ministry in 1991, resigned in 1995 and was finally laicized by Pope Benedict in 2009.

**Survivors' accounts**

The report is full of anecdotes and direct quotes from survivors interviewed by the attorney general's office. In one heart-wrenching story, a woman referred to by the pseudonym "Shanice" recounted how she was repeatedly raped by Father Robert Boley in the late 1980s when she was a fifth grader at Saint Cyril in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood.

Boley's abuse began with inappropriate touching behind his desk while the rest of the class worked on math problems. But eventually Boley would regularly hold Shanice back from going to recess, raping her in the empty classroom.

"He told me I was bad," Shanice told investigators from the attorney general's office. "He told me that Jesus made me bad, that he was

*Continued on Page 5*



**Catholic**

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there to help me.”

Shanice said she both trusted Boley and feared him. She also said she knew she wasn’t the only one of her classmates targeted by Boley.

“I think that what people don’t understand is when you are a child, you don’t separate a priest from God,” she was quoted as saying in the report. “He was God. To me, he was God’s worker.”

According to Shanice, another priest even caught Boley one day, bursting into the empty

classroom at recess and witnessing Shanice on his lap. But instead of doing anything about it, Shanice recalled the other priest asked Boley a question, then locked the door behind him on his way back out.

Boley was moved to three other assignments before ending up back in Illinois, where he worked at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Darien in 2002 when another woman accused him of abusing her when she was a young girl in the 1980s, close to the time of Shanice’s abuse.

After decades, Shanice finally told her mother about the abuse in 2019, and eventually agreed to a settlement with the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2022.

According to the report, Boley was removed from public ministry in 2006 and is “on a safety plan.”

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# LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOONE COUNTY - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS  
FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FREDDIE MAC SEASONED CREDIT  
RISK TRANSFER TRUST, SERIES 2021-2, PLAINTIFF  
VS.  
Case No.: 2023FC27  
TIM MILLER AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR KEVIN L.  
MASON A/K/A KEVIN MASON A/K/A KEVIN LEE MASON,  
MATTHEW MASON, SAMUEL MASON, UW MED FOUNDATION,  
INC, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF KEVIN L. MASON  
A/K/A KEVIN MASON A/K/A KEVIN LEE MASON; UNKNOWN  
OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS  
DEFENDANTS  
Property Address:  
108 Edson Ct  
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

## NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to: Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Kevin L. Mason a/k/a Kevin Mason a/k/a Kevin Lee Mason and Unknown Owners, and Non Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-entitled action, that a Complaint for Foreclosure and Other Relief has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Boone County, by said Plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of certain mortgages conveying the premises legally described as follows:

SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS: LOT 8 AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT NO. 2 OF ROLLING MEADOWS, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE 3RD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, AND A RE-SUBDIVISION OF LOT 5 AND EDSON ROAD AS DESIGNATED ON THE PLAT OF ROLLING MEADOWS, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN THE RECORDERS OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN PLAT INDEX FILE ENVELOPE NO. 26, AS DOCUMENT NO. 77-3206.

P.I.N.: 03-24-426-022  
COMMON ADDRESS: 108 Edson Ct, Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
And which mortgages were made by Kevin L. Mason a/k/a Kevin Mason a/k/a Kevin Lee Mason, as Mortgagor(s); and given to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Mortgagee; to wit: that certain "Mortgage" dated (a) 06/26/2006, and recorded as Document No. 2009R08765, that Summons was duly issued out of said court against you as provided by law, and that the said Complaint is now pending for foreclosure of said mortgages and for other relief.

Now, therefore, unless you Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Kevin L. Mason a/k/a Kevin Mason a/k/a Kevin Lee Mason and Unknown Owners, and Non Record Claimants, file your Appearance and Answer to the Complaint in said action in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Boone County, Chancery Division, on or before JUNE 12, 2023, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer for relief in said Complaint.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
Kluever Law Group, LLC  
225 West Washington Street Suite 1550  
Chicago, IL 60606  
312-236-0077  
courtresults@klueverlawgroup.com  
Atty. No. 6275308  
6088-932597

Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 11, 18, 25, 2023

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF CSMC 2019-RPL5 TRUST Plaintiff,  
-v- 2022 FC 74  
DALTON DANIELSON et al Defendant

## NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 9, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on June 23, 2023, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT EIGHT (8) IN BLOCK ONE (1) OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF GARDEN PRAIRIE, ILLINOIS, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN BOOK S OF DEEDS ON PAGE 268, (EXCEPTING THEREFROM; BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT EIGHT (8) OF SAID BLOCK ONE (1) OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF GARDEN PRAIRIE; THENCE WESTERLY ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT EIGHT (8), SAID LINE HAVING A BEARING OF NORTH 87°39'54" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 66.28 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT EIGHT (8); THENCE NORTHERLY ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT EIGHT (8), SAID LINE HAVING A BEARING OF NORTH 00°54'44" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 5.22 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE EASTERLY ON A LINE HAVING A BEARING OF SOUTH 82°54'40" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 14.65 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE EASTERLY ON A LINE HAVING A BEARING OF SOUTH 87°39'54" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 43.41 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ON A LINE HAVING A BEARING OF NORTH 32°33'16" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 15.04 FEET TO A POINT IN THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT EIGHT (8); THENCE SOUTHERLY ON SAID EAST LINE OF LOT EIGHT (8), SAID LINE HAVING A BEARING OF SOUTH 0°59'16" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 17.03 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 11050 ROUTE 20, GARDEN PRAIRIE, IL 61038

Property Index No. 06-36-102-010  
The real estate is improved with a residence.  
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876  
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100  
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527  
630-794-5300  
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com  
Attorney File No. 14-22-06995  
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002  
Case Number: 2022 FC 74  
TJSC#: 43-1942

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2022 FC 74  
I3220364  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 18, 25; Jun 1, 2023.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
COUNTY OF BOONE  
In the Matter of the Estate of: JACQUELINE D. O=KEEFE, Deceased.  
CASE NO. 2023PR20

## CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of JACQUELINE D. O=KEEFE. Letters of Office were issued on May 1, 2023, to Elizabeth R. Brown, as executor, whose attorney of record is David J. Brown, 101 E. Rapp St., Mt. Carroll, IL 61053.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk, Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 or with the representative, or both, on or before November 18, 2023, (that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication) or, within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the representative's attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

DATED: 5/18/23  
Elizabeth R. Brown, Executor  
Estate of Jacqueline D. O=Keefe, deceased  
David J. Brown (#6185050)  
Attorney at Law  
101 E. Rapp St.  
Mt. Carroll, IL 61053  
815-291-8161  
E-MAIL: Djbrownlaw@aol.com  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 18, 25; Jun 1, 2023.

## LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NORTH BOONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #3

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for the fiscal year 2023-2024 for the North Boone Fire Protection District #3, Boone County, Illinois, at 7:00 p.m. on July 10, 2023, at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the North Boone Fire Protection District #3, at the Fire Station located at 305 W. Grove Street, Poplar Grove, Illinois.

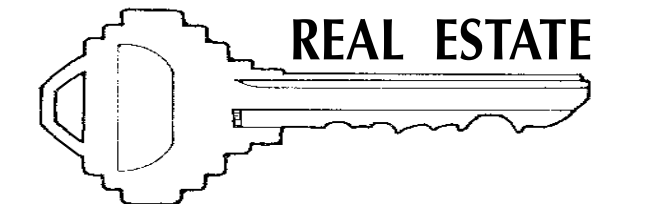
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a tentative form of said Budget and Appropriations Ordinance will be on file and available for public inspection at the Fire Station located at 305 W. Grove Street, Poplar Grove, Illinois from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning on June 9, 2023.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 25, 2023

# ASSUMED NAMES

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY  
ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
No. DBA4149 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a PAINTING AND DECORATING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of RPM DECORATING & DESIGN that its location is or will be at 4271 GARDEN PRAIRIE ROAD in GARDEN PRAIRIE in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-323-0433  
Rick Thomfohrda, 4271 Garden Prairie Road, Garden Prairie, IL 61038  
I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: May 16, 2023.  
Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 05/18,25, 06/01



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF CSMC 2019-RPL5 TRUST Plaintiff,  
-v- 2022 FC 74  
DALTON DANIELSON et al Defendant

## NOTICE OF SALE

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Commonly known as 11050 ROUTE 20, GARDEN PRAIRIE, IL 61038

Property Index No. 06-36-102-010  
The real estate is improved with a residence.  
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party

checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876  
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100  
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527  
630-794-5300  
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com  
Attorney File No. 14-22-06995  
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002  
Case Number: 2022 FC 74  
TJSC#: 43-1942

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2022 FC 74  
I3220364  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 18, 25; Jun 1, 2023.

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## Bills from page 3

equivalency plan for elementary and secondary education majors; early childhood education is already covered.

Proponents of the bill say the development of the education major equivalency plan will help Illinois address its teacher shortage.

Upon the governor's signature, the law would go into effect on Jan. 1.

Editor's note: This story has been updated to reflect HB 3129's House passage that occurred after the story's initial publish date.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of print and broadcast outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.*

# As Budget Negotiations Continue, Pritzker Announces Launch of Stalled Tax Incentive Program

*Blue Collar Jobs Act was approved on bipartisan lines in 2019 before governor froze it amid pandemic*

*By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois*

As budget negotiations for the coming fiscal year continued behind closed doors Wednesday, Gov. JB Pritzker's office announced it would launch a long-stalled tax incentive program that was part of his first-year budget.

The program – known as the Blue Collar Jobs Act – was a bargaining chip for Republican votes in 2019 for both a massive infrastructure plan and the state budget – the only annual spending plan to land on Pritzker's desk with bipartisan support from lawmakers. The measure would offer business tax credits for wages paid on certain construction projects.

But in early 2021, with the state staring down an anticipated budget deficit amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Pritzker unilaterally delayed implementation of the program, angering the GOP members who had pushed for it.

The state's fiscal outlook has since rebounded, leading to unforeseen revenue spikes as federal stimulus funds circulated through the economy in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. With the governor's office currently anticipating about \$50.4 billion in revenue for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024, his office on Wednesday announced that it had finally opened the Blue Collar Jobs Act application window.

"Today, I am proud to announce yet another investment in our communities — the Blue Collar Jobs Act Tax Credit — to promote construction projects in underserved areas, while creating more good-paying jobs up and down the state," Pritzker announced in a news release.

Republicans chalked the announcement up as a win, even as some in the minority party lamented that the details of the upcoming budget remained unknown just two days ahead of Friday's scheduled adjournment of the spring legislative session.

"We have consistently requested that the governor implement the long-stalled Blue Collar Jobs Act that was a part of the 2019 Rebuild Illinois bipartisan agreement," Senate Minority Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, said in a statement.

He hailed implementation of the act as "a step in the right direction for rebuilding our economy and providing more job opportunities to Illinois workers."

The program offers tax breaks of up to \$20 million per year to eligible companies. The tax credit would offset wages paid to construction workers, up to 75 percent in "underserved areas" as determined by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and 50 percent elsewhere.

Projects exceeding \$10 million in construction costs are eligible if the construction is located in enterprise zones as defined by state law or if the business has a contract under the state's Economic Development for a Growing Economy program.

Companies designated "high impact businesses" under state law would be eligible for credits if the project exceeds \$12 million and creates 500 full-time jobs, or if it exceeds \$30 million and leads to the retention of 1,500 full-time jobs.

Projects in a River Edge Redevelopment Zone as defined in state law would be eligible if they have a qualified rehabilitation plan exceeding \$1 million.

The grants would be available for businesses

that completed projects in 2021 or later, honoring the original effective date of the bipartisan agreement.

Pritzker's announcement came just two days before lawmakers were scheduled to adjourn their spring legislative session. That deadline, however, was self-imposed; lawmakers could extend session through May 31 without triggering the constitutional requirement that a three-fifths majority is needed to pass a bill with an immediate effective date.

The major unfinished item as of Wednesday night was the state's operating budget. No bill language had been filed and neither chamber moved an appropriations bill that could contain the budget plan. That meant session is likely to continue past Friday's scheduled adjournment date, due to the state constitution's requirement that bills be read three times on the floor before passage.

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## Dems Move to Allow Punitive Damage Awards in Wrongful Death Lawsuits

*Illinois would join 34 other states, but business groups claim move will increase costs*

*By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois*

Democrats in the General Assembly this week lined up to push a measure that would allow state courts to award punitive damages in wrongful death lawsuits – a departure from the status quo for more than a century in Illinois.

Illinois is one of 16 states that does not allow for the recovery of punitive damages in wrongful death cases, though the state does allow for plaintiffs in personal injury cases to seek punitive damages.

"It's only when the plaintiff has died from his or her injuries that punitive damages are precluded," Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said Thursday during a brief debate on House Bill 219. "The awarding of punitive damages should not turn on whether the injuries were severe enough to kill the plaintiff."

HB 219 would take the standards for seeking punitive damages in personal injury cases and apply them to Illinois' Wrongful Death Act. The bill is an initiative of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, which has historically been an ally to Democrats.

The state's business community mounted a swift but ultimately ineffective opposition campaign against the bill after it popped up earlier this week, citing increased liability costs. The bill passed with only Democratic votes in both the Senate and House this week and will soon be sent to Gov. JB Pritzker for his approval.

ITLA President Pat Salvi Jr., a managing partner at prominent Chicago-based personal injury law firm Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard, told a Senate panel this week that allowing punitive damages only when a victim survives is "a defect in the law."

"We believe it is time to fix what the Illinois Supreme Court noted is 'the often-repeated adage that it is cheaper to kill your victim than to leave him maimed,'" Salvi said, quoting from a 1983 opinion from the state's high court that affirmed punitive damages are not allowed in wrongful death cases. "That cannot be."

### Punitive damages exceedingly rare

While compensatory damages are meant to compensate a victim or victim's family for anything from lost wages and hospital bills to pain and suffering, punitive damages are meant to punish a defendant and deter the type of reckless action that led to injury or death.

Punitive damages are rarely asked for and even more rarely granted. According to ITLA, in the last decade, Illinois juries have awarded punitive damages of more than \$10,000 in only 18 personal injury cases.

The most recent nationwide study on the matter from the U.S. Department of Justice in 2005 found that, among successful cases, punitive damages were awarded in just 3 percent of the most common types of personal injury cases.

Punitive damages for product or premises liability and car crashes were awarded in 1 percent or fewer cases according to the DOJ's report. The study was based on a survey of courts in the nation's 75 most populous counties, including Illinois' Cook and DuPage counties.

At the time of the DOJ report 18 years ago, the median punitive damage award in all successful tort cases was \$55,000; adjusted for inflation, that figure would be just under \$85,000 now.

Still, business groups said increasing opportunities for punitive damages could deter companies from moving to or expanding in Illinois due to increased liability. The insurance lobby also registered its opposition to the bill, and Republicans repeated the groups' concerns during House and Senate debates this week.

"We could end up shutting down a business because of one or two bad actors," Rep. Dan Ugaste, R-Geneva, said during debate in the House. "And I'm not defending the bad actors at all. I'm just saying there's other people to consider here."

Ugaste went on to imagine the ripple effects of shuttered businesses on workers and their families. But he also lamented that HB 219 didn't contain any caps on punitive damages.

"The Supreme Court in Illinois has ruled that they're unconstitutional," Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Swansea, told Ugaste, saying the legislature's hands were tied as to including hard caps in the bill.

But Hoffman did note that the state's high court has ruled that any punitive damages exceeding 10 times the amount of compensatory damages would be considered a violation of due process, in essence putting a soft limit on punitive damages.

According to ITLA, caps are in place in only nine of the 34 states that already allow punitive damages in wrongful death cases.

### 'Grisly mathematics'

Even if placing caps on punitive damages was constitutionally feasible, Harmon maintained that writing caps into state law would set up a perverse incentive system for companies to do the "grisly mathematics" of a cost-benefit analysis. He cited the legal debacle over the Ford Pinto in the 1970s, when the company delayed recalling 1.5 million cars despite knowing about a dangerous design defect that caused gas tanks to explode even in low-speed crashes.

The company's apparent cost-benefit analysis found it would be less expensive for the company to settle cases with victims than to recall the cars and prevent the deadly explosions they were causing.

"Imagine someone sitting in a corporate boardroom saying we can kill 127 drivers before it's more expensive to recall the car than it is to simply pay the capped punitive damages," Harmon said.

In September, a Cook County jury granted \$325 million in punitive damages – on top of \$38 million in compensatory damages – to Sue Kamuda, who developed breast cancer in 2007 after living near the Willowbrook Sterigenics medical supply sterilization plant for years. It

*Continued on Page 8*

**Damages***from page 7*

was the state's largest punitive damage award in recent history.

The jury found the Oak Brook-based company did not invest in emissions-curbing technology, which would have reduced the amount of carcinogenic gas emitted from its Willowbrook plant, despite knowing the cancer risk ethylene oxide posed to neighbors.

Kamuda is one of hundreds of nearby residents who've filed similar claims since 2018, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published research that found people who lived in the area around the facility faced some of the highest cancer risks in the U.S. The state of Illinois ordered the plant to close temporarily in early 2019, and Sterigenics later voluntarily shuttered the plant permanently.

Salvi represented Kamuda in the case, and in an interview with Capitol News Illinois this week, he said despite the eye-popping figure his client was awarded in punitive damages, her case was one of only "five or six" times in his 16-year legal career that he's filed for punitive damages.

And if punitive damages had been an option in wrongful death cases over that same time period, Salvi said he'd likely only have sought punitive damages in "less than five" additional cases, nearly all in suits involving deaths due to drunk drivers.

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## As Leaders Extend Session with Budget Unfinished, Several Sweeping Last-Minute Bills Surface

*Cannabis regulation, elections, biometric privacy, ethics measures all filed Friday*

*By Hannah Meisel, Jerry Nowicki, Nika Schoonover & Peter Hancock  
Capitol News Illinois*

Lawmakers won't finish their spring legislative session by Friday's scheduled adjournment as negotiations over the state budget remain in flux.

The May 19 end to the General Assembly's spring session had been on the calendar for months, but it's not a deadline; lawmakers still have until the end of May before a constitutional trigger raises the threshold on the number of votes needed to pass legislation immediately to a three-fifths majority.

Democratic legislative leaders in the General Assembly issued a statement Friday evening announcing they'll return next week instead of working through the weekend. Both chambers will be back on Wednesday and Thursday, while the House has scheduled Friday session as well.

"When we came to Springfield in January, we made it clear that our top priority was a fiscally responsible budget that prioritized hardworking Illinoisans," Senate President Don Harmon and House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch said in a joint statement. "That continues to be true. Conversation is ongoing and negotiations are productive. We are committed to passing a good, balanced budget for the people of Illinois."

This week's realization that budget talks were not wrapping up neatly frustrated members on both sides of the aisle, but Republicans – who only make up a superminority of both the Illinois House and Senate – were much more vocal about it.

During House floor debate, Rep. Jeff Keicher, R-Sycamore, renewed his request for an estimate as to when a draft copy of the budget might drop – or at least a revenue estimate for the state's fiscal year that begins July 1.

"You're asking me?" replied Rep. Jay Hoffman, a Democrat from Swansea who was presiding

over the House chamber at the time. Hoffman's quip elicited laughs from members, and Keicher broke into a smile.

"Funny story," Keicher responded. "After I made my inquiry last night, I had eight members of the other side of the aisle suggest to me that they hadn't seen one either."

House Republicans' lead budget negotiator Rep. Norine Hammond, R-Macomb, said members of her party have been essentially uninvolved or uninvited to budget negotiations throughout the spring session.

"We have attempted numerous meetings with the House Democratic budgeteer, with the speaker and the governor," Hammond said at a Capitol news conference. "Only one group has met with us on more than one occasion; that is the governor and his team. No negotiations with others have occurred."

Most Democrats haven't seen anything resembling a draft budget either, as the group of top lawmakers negotiating the state's spending plan is intentionally small.

The most recent revenue estimate from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget anticipates about \$50.4 billion in revenues for the upcoming budget year, even after April revenues plummeted more than \$1.8 billion from one year ago.

One point of contention among Democrats in negotiations is an anticipated \$1.1 billion in spending on health care for non-citizens aged 42 and older who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid if not for their citizenship status.

The governor's office had budgeted \$220 million for that program, creating an \$880 million budget pressure. Members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus and Progressive Caucus have called for expanding the program to noncitizens between the ages of 19 and 42, at an estimated cost of \$380 million next year.

While advocates for the noncitizen health care expansion have called those estimates overblown, the program has far exceeded estimates through its implementation and two expansions.

Budget requests from other groups include raising Medicaid reimbursement rates for hospitals, increased pay for providers serving individuals with disabilities, increases in funding for local governments and dozens of others.

Sen. Elgie Sims, D-Chicago, who serves as the chamber's lead budget negotiator, said Thursday he thought negotiations between Democrats were "in a very good place."

"We haven't made any final decisions yet. I would say everything is still on the table. We're still negotiating," he said.

Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer, R-Jacksonville, said he expected the budget to once again be filed "at the last minute" and quickly pushed through by the supermajority party, a customary process in recent years.

"There's little to no – I would emphasize no – opportunity for debate on these issues," he said. "I think we're going to see it drop, and we're gonna be expected to figure out what the gimmicks are at the last minute."

While rank-and-file lawmakers awaited the budget details Friday, several other major, wide-ranging initiatives were filed in a similar last-minute fashion. That included an expansive cannabis regulatory bill, a change to Illinois' strongest-in-the-nation biometric privacy law, a broad elections bill and an ethics proposal prohibiting political donations from red light camera companies among other reforms.

**CANNABIS:** A bill that aims to implement a variety of reforms to Illinois' burgeoning cannabis industry would change dispensary operations and restrictions on craft growers.

The measure overhauls portions of the 2019 cannabis legalization law, which also sought to address the disproportionate impact of cannabis criminalization on communities of color. According to the ACLU, Black people in Illinois were 7.5 times more likely than white people to be arrested for cannabis-related offenses prior to

the state's decriminalization of the drug in 2016.

The 2019 law sought to address that impact, including laying the groundwork for the expungement of 492,129 cannabis-related convictions, a lottery process to award dispensary licenses to "social equity" applicants, and the opening of the state's first Black-owned dispensaries.

The amended Senate Bill 1559, among other things, would increase canopy space for craft growers from 5,000 square feet to 1,400 square feet. It would also allow dispensaries to operate drive-thru windows and offer curbside pick-up services, making sure they prioritize medical patients.

**BIOMETRIC PRIVACY:** Business groups balked Friday after Democrats dropped a bill that would change Illinois' Biometric Information Privacy Act, a first-of-its-kind law that allows individuals to sue companies over improper collection or storage of information such as fingerprints or facial scans.

Although BIPA passed in 2008, it wasn't until years later that companies began to face lawsuits under the law as technology like fingerprint and retinal scanners became more widely used. Business groups have been especially worried about companies' legal exposure after recent BIPA-related decisions from the Illinois Supreme Court. One decision ruled violations occur every time biometric data is collected without an individual's express permission – like each time an employee clocks in and out using their fingerprints.

Friday's amendment to House Bill 3811 stipulates that "the same biometric identifier from the same person using the same method of collection has created a single violation," but business groups said the language was too vague. They also assailed the proposed fine increase for negligent violations from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and decried the addition of another type of biometric data to the law – electronic signatures – as a giveaway to trial lawyers.

**ELECTIONS:** A new elections bill would, among other things, establish a task force to study the feasibility of adopting a ranked-choice voting system in certain elections. That's a method of voting in which voters can mark their ballot for multiple candidates in order of their preference.

An amendment to Senate Bill 2123 has several other elections-related provisions, including one that would allow 16-year-olds who are otherwise qualified to vote to preregister to vote, although their registration would be held in abeyance until they turn 18. It would also allow 17-year-olds who will turn 18 before the next election to circulate nominating petitions or petitions proposing a ballot question.

**ETHICS:** An amendment to House Bill 3903 filed late Friday would prohibit companies that sell automated traffic enforcement devices such as red light cameras from contributing to campaign funds if they contract with municipalities in Illinois. The measure also requires municipalities to conduct statistical analyses of the safety impact of existing systems. In recent years, executives of red light camera companies have been named in federal investigations involving lawmaker misconduct.

That measure also prohibits state lawmakers and municipal officers or employees from "knowingly" accepting employment or compensation from a vendor that provides automated traffic law enforcement system equipment or services to municipalities. It would create a two-year prohibition of any of those lawmakers or employees from receiving such compensation after they leave office or government work.

**OTHER ACTION:** All those bills were introduced at the end of a week that saw the passage of several measures that had been making their way through the legislative process for months. Those include bills allowing optional all-gender bathrooms, regulating the gun industry, environmental measures and dozens of others.